Constitution of Prasar Bharati Board

80. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Prasar Bharati Board constituted;

(b) who was the Chairman of the Board as on 20th November, 2000;

(c) who was the Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati as on 20th November, 2000;

(d) whether Government have framed rules for selection for the above post and also for other members of Prasar Bharati Board; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in framing the recruitment rules and by when, they will be framed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati Board was constituted on 23rd November, 1997.

(b) Shri Nikhil Chakrawarty, appointed as Chairman of the Board on 23.11.1997 expired on 27.6.1998. Thereafter, the post has not been filled up.

(c) Shri R.R. Shah, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was holding additional charge of the Executive Member of the Prasar Bharati on *ad-hoc* basis.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Dates for the National Films Festival

81. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided any date for the National Films Festival;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for postponing the films festival; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of films and the programmes to help the ailing film industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Public screening of this year's award winning films, also referred to as National Films Festival, has been held from 25th April to 4th May, 2001.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) According to a recent study commissioned by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), the film industry is growing rapidly. The Government has taken a number of measures which help improve the quality of films, such as setting up of training institutions for film making, film awards, participation in film festivals and allowing imports of modern cinematographic equipment.

Video piracy

82. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Video piracy is ruining the film industry in the country as the Cable Operators show the latest released films almost next day of their release clandestinely;

(b) the number of cases of such piracy detected by Government during the last two years, year-wise and action taken against pirates during the same period; and

(c) whether Government propose to deal with this menace strongly to save the film industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the threat of Video Piracy to the film industry. The responsibility for enforcing the Copyright Act, 1957 rests with the Police Authorities under the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Act has been amended to bring it in consonance with the developments in modern technology and making its penal provisions more stringent. On 8th September 2000, the Cable Television Networks (Regulations) Rules were also amended